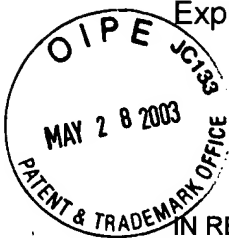


05-29-03

CP 3823724

Attorney Docket No. 31957.8010US1

Express Mail Label EV 343593701 US#8 / response  
W 06-11-03  
PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: FLADGARD, ET AL.

APPLICATION No.: 09/928,259 ✓

FILED: 08/11/2001

FOR: EXTENDED LIFE CUTTING BLADES FOR HAND-  
HELD CUTTING TOOLS

EXAMINER: WATTS, DOUGLAS D.

ART UNIT: 3824

CONF. No: 5732

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant AmendmentCommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Commissioner:

On 9 May 2003, the Office mailed a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (Voluntary Revised Practice), objecting to the amendment filed 18 April 2003 (the Amendment) because it failed to include a separate status identifier for each claim. The undersigned respectfully submits that the Amendment is in full compliance with 37 CFR §1.121 and should be entered.

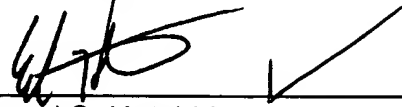
The Amendment cancelled several claims in response to a restriction requirement, but did not amend any of the remaining claims. As such, no appendix with a marked-up version of the claims is necessary under 37 CFR §1.121. Even though 37 CFR §1.121 does not require a listing of all pending claims, the undersigned included such a listing as a courtesy to the Examiner. No status identifier is required under 37 CFR §1.121 in such a listing of the claims.

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment states at the outset that amendments must comply with either 1) Deputy Commissioner Kunin's recently-suggested guidelines, or 2) 37 CFR §1.121. As the Amendment met all requirements of 37 CFR §1.121, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Office enter the Amendment for prompt consideration by the Examiner. If the Examiner has any questions or matters

that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 264-3848.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP



Edward S. Hotchkiss

Registration No. 33,904

Date: 27 MAY 03

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